SYLVAIN CORDURIÉ

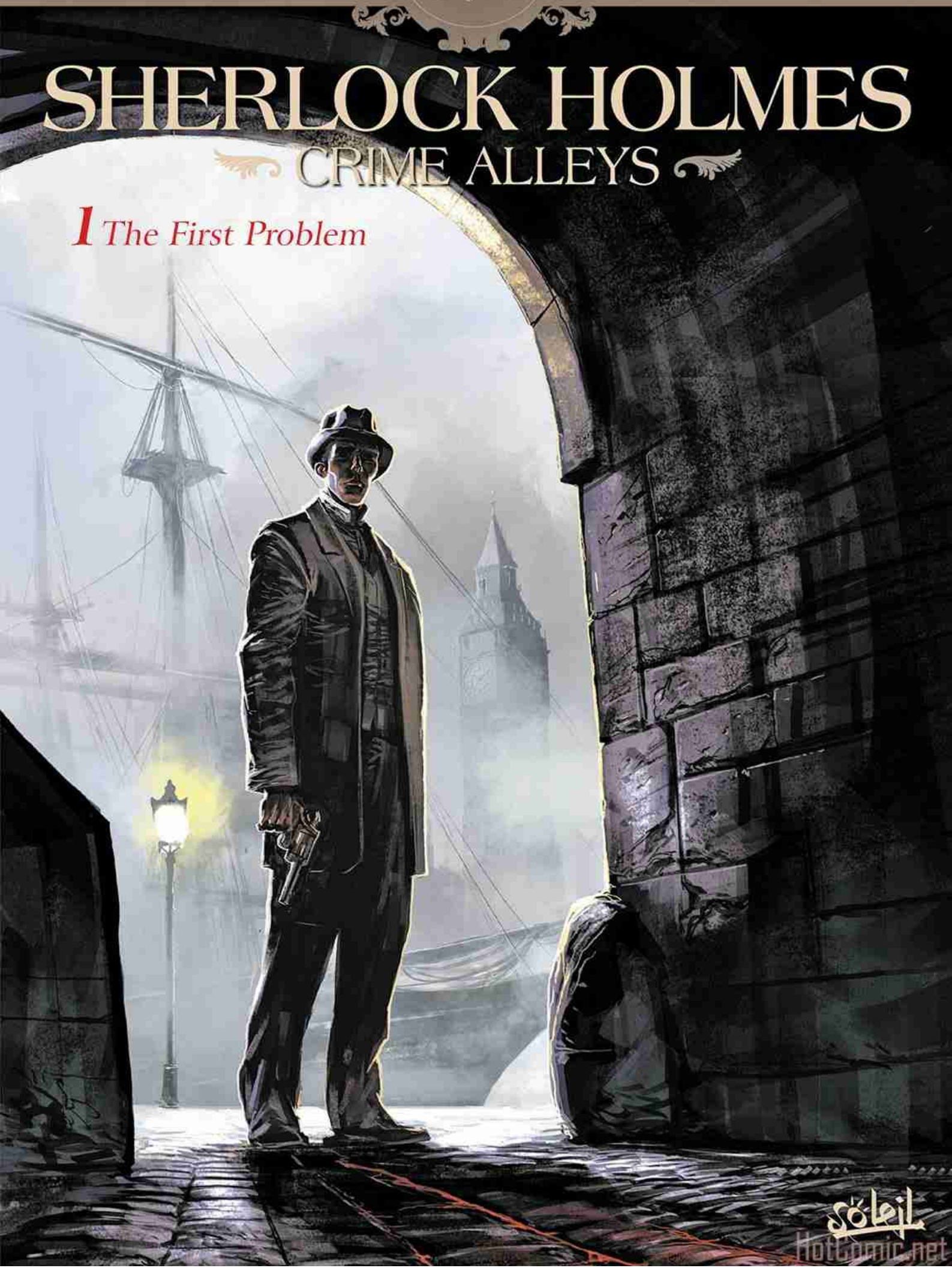
1800

ALESSANDRO NESPOLINO

SHERLOCK HOLMES

CRIME ALLEYS

1 *The First Problem*



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PIRIT

SHERLOCK HOLMES
CRIME ALLEYS

1 *The First Problem*

Story — Sylvain Cordurié

Art — Alessandro Nespolino

Color — Axel Gonzalbo

Cover — Ronan Toulhoat

Text Copy — Bishop

Translation & Typesetting — Sosich

1800

soleil

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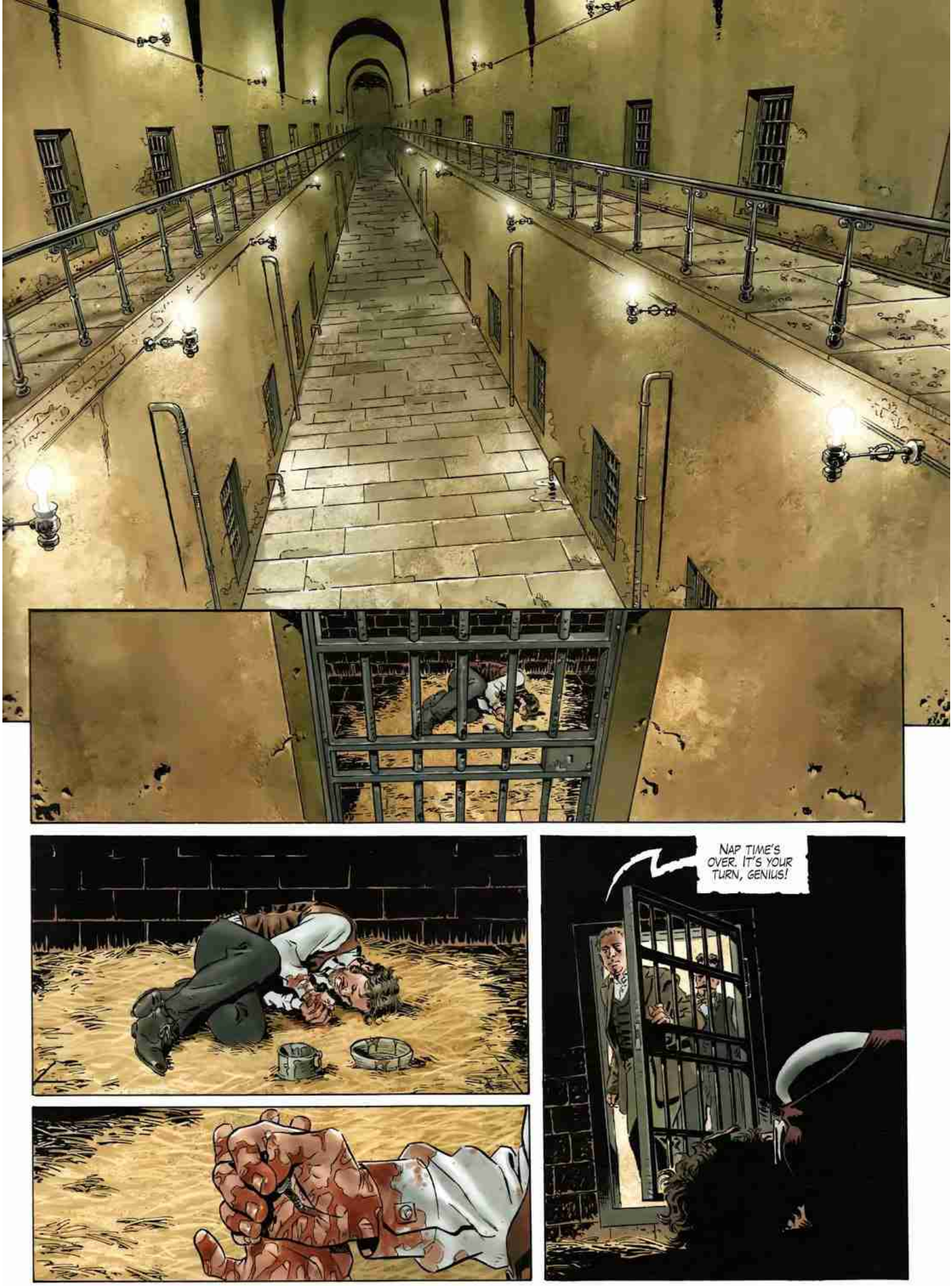
NAP TIME'S OVER. IT'S YOUR TURN, GENIUS!

IS THIS THE HOTHEAD WHO WOULDN'T SHUT UP?
YEAH. I PUT LAUDANUM IN HIS FOOD. I MAY HAVE USED TOO MUCH. HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR TWO DAYS.
DAMN IT!
THE BOSS DOESN'T LIKE TO DO HIS THING WHEN THEY'RE LIKE THIS.
I HOPE HE DOESN'T...
ARRHH!
CHTONK
HEY!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
PLEASE!

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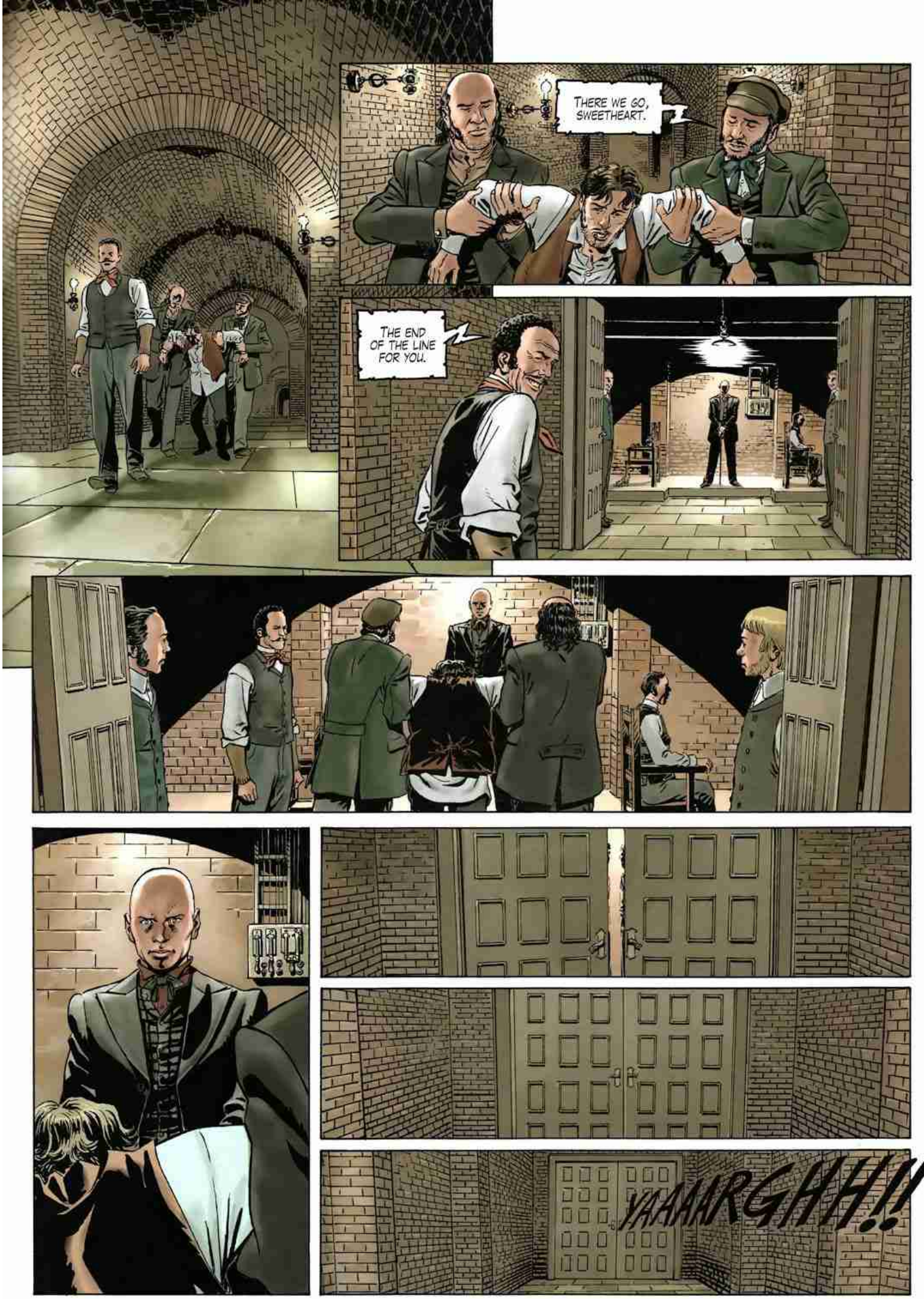
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING ANYWAY?
I KEEP SAYING IT! THAT FUCKING IRISH-MAN'S GOT NOTHING IN HIS SKULL.
WAIT TILL I GET MY HANDS ON HIM! HE'S GONNA BE IN A WORLD OF HURT!

MY GOD!
HEERK!!
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
TOO BAD, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO END UP.
BUT ONE THING AT A TIME...
YOU'RE EXPECTED SOMEWHERE ELSE AND WE'RE LATE.
OKAY, LADS, YOU KNOW THE RULE...
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO HIT HIM, BUT DON'T TOUCH HIS HEAD.


THERE WE GO, SWEETHEART.
THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU.
YAAAARGHH!!

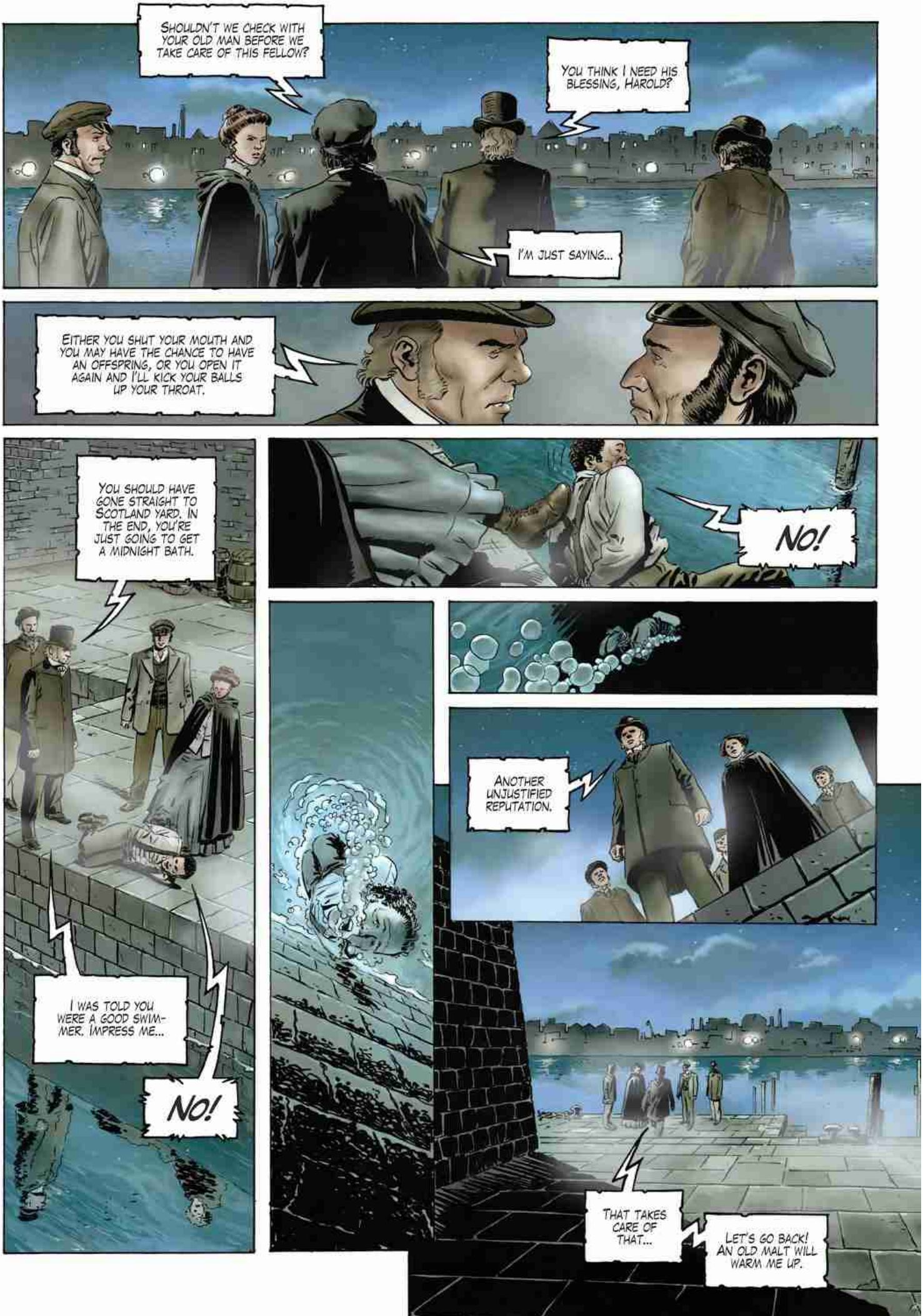
MAY 1876, LONDON.
MY FRIENDS CALL ME A MISANTHROPE. THEY ARE WRONG. FOR A PERSON TO CATCH MY INTEREST, HE NEEDS MORE THAN HUMAN QUALITIES.
HE NEED TO HAVE THAT LITTLE SOMETHING THAT MAKES HIM SPECIAL, IF NOT EXCEPTIONAL.
RON JANTSCHER BELONGS IN THIS CATEGORY. NOT ONLY IS HE A CHARMING BOY, HE'S ALSO A VIRTUOSO.
HE'S SO NATURAL, HE MAKES PLAYING THE VIOLIN SEEM EASY. I'M IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT IT IS NOT.
I COULD PLAY THE VIOLIN FOR TEN YEARS, I WOULD NEVER ACHIEVE THIS PERFECTION.
I DON'T ENVY HIM, ON THE CONTRARY, I'M A PRETTY GOOD AUDIENCE. BETTER TO ENJOY THE TALENT OF OTHERS THAN TO FEEL JEALOUS.
I'M REALLY IMPRESSED WITH THIS KID. HE DESERVES THE CHANCE HE'S GIVEN.
THE COMPLIMENT, COMING FROM A MAN WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MUSIC, COULDN'T SOUND MORE HOLLOW.

How rewarding it is to discuss with you...
When you see something other than a recipe for cooking in what you call "Osso Nabucco à la Verdi", I will review my judgment.
I have not finished paying it, this barely enlightened comment. But what can I do? Unlike you, I'm not interested in obscure composers.
Verdi, obscure?
You're making it worse, Colin.
Let him. My latent sadism will only find new reasons to express itself.
However, I agree with our inspector friend on one point: excellent performance. The Philharmonic Orchestra of Vienna will congratulate itself for having lured you in its nets.
Speaking of which, when are you leaving, Ron?
In one week. I just need to get my papers in order.
I'll miss you...
I like to think so!
Sherlock was looking at you with greedy eyes. If I didn't see him in nice company often, I'd find his appeal to you suspicious.
In a way, the charm works. I envy your bow stroke.
You wish you could play this well, don't you?
To each his own field of excellence. Mine is of a completely different nature.
I just can't remember... Ah yes... Your famous science of deduction. What's so remarkable about it?

NOT JUST DEDUCTION. FIRST, I OBSERVE...
THE DRUNK AT THE BAR IS UNDOUBTEDLY A POOR HUSBAND, EVEN A BAD FATHER. THE WAY HE LOOKS, YOU MIGHT ONLY SEE HIM AS A BRAWLER. BUT THE BLOOD ON HIS BELT SUGGESTS HE BEATS UP PEOPLE WEAKER THAN HIM.
THAT WOMAN COMES HERE BECAUSE SHE KNOWS THE PLACE IS FREQUENTED BY YOUNG WEALTHY PEOPLE. SHE DOES EVERYTHING TO SEDUCE THIS WHIPPER-SNAPPER. SUBTLY, BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR ME, SHE EVALUATES THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF HIS POSSESSIONS. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE BUGGER WAKES UP WITHOUT THE BEAUTY NEXT TO HIM... AND LIGHTER.
THE MAN BY THE DOOR WON'T TAKE HIS EYES OFF RON. AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THE TAVERN, HE STARTED TAKING NOTES. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT HAVE IN HIS EYES THAT LITTLE GLEAM THAT WE DETECT IN SOLOISTS' HUNTERS. HE INTRIGUES ME...
I COULD GO THROUGH ALL THE DRINKERS. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THESE THREE EXAMPLES WILL SUFFICE...
AMPLY. YOUR SUPERIORITY OVER US POOR MORTALS IS BLINDING.
OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION, COLIN. THESE ARE QUALITIES THAT YOUR SCOTLAND YARD IS SORELY LACKING.
PLEASE, NOT TONIGHT!
WE'RE HERE TO ENJOY RON'S LAST RECITAL...
...WHO GOES BACK ON STAGE AND LEAVES YOU TO YOUR BATTLE OF EXPERTS.

SHERLOCK... I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD SPARE ME.
WHEN HE RESUMES.
IN RETURN, YOU MUST AGREE THAT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO. THE NUMBER OF UNSOLVED CRIMES OF COMMON FOLK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF...
PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE DISAPPEARANCES THAT HAVE SHAKEN THE SCIENTIFIC AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS.
WITH NO POSITIVE RESULTS, BY THE WAY...
WE'RE JUST A BUNCH OF INCOMPETENTS AND LACKEYS OF THE GOVERNMENT. IS THIS THE EXPIATION YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
IT'S A START...
NOW, PLEASE, BE QUIET!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

I WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING ME IN LONDON...
I CAN'T STAND THE HUMIDITY AND I'M TIRED OF SPRING NIGHTS AS COLD AS WINTER EVENINGS.
YOU TOO? I ASK BECAUSE YOU'RE TREMBLING...
MR. MORIARTY... THIS... THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK...
PROFESSOR MORIARTY, EMMETT. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE YOU...
THE PROBLEM IS THAT ISABELL'S VERSION CONTRADICTS YOURS.
I DON'T BLAME YOU. YOU ARE PLAGUED BY A MORAL DILEMMA, SPLIT BETWEEN YOUR LOYALTY TO MY FATHER AND THE HORROR YOU FEEL ABOUT OUR BUSINESS.
I, MYSELF, AM NOT INSENSITIVE TO IT. BUT YOU SEE... BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.
WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MEN LIKE YOU IS THAT, INEVITABLY, THEY END UP POURING THEIR HEART OUT ON A FRIENDLY SHOULDER. UNFORTUNATELY, ISABELL WAS NOT THE BEST CHOICE.


SHOULDN'T WE CHECK WITH YOUR OLD MAN BEFORE WE TAKE CARE OF THIS FELLOW?
YOU THINK I NEED HIS BLESSING, HAROLD?
I'M JUST SAYING...
EITHER YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND YOU MAY HAVE THE CHANCE TO HAVE AN OFFSPRING, OR YOU OPEN IT AGAIN AND I'LL KICK YOUR BALLS UP YOUR THROAT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TO SCOTLAND YARD. IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GET A MIDNIGHT BATH.
I WAS TOLD YOU WERE A GOOD SWIMMER. IMPRESS ME...
NO!
NO!
ANOTHER UNJUSTIFIED REPUTATION.
THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT...
LET'S GO BACK! AN OLD MALT WILL WARM ME UP.

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OLD WRIGHTEN, WESTMINSTER.
SHERLOCK...
FOR AN ORGANIZED MAN, I FIND YOU VERY MESSY...
TO WHAT DO WE OWE SUCH A MESS?
I'M LOOKING FOR THE REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION MENTIONED IN THE CRIME RECORDS. I THOUGHT I SAW IT IN ONE OF THESE BOOKS...
...BUT YOU CAN'T FIND A TRACE.
I'LL MISS YOUR LIVELINESS ALMOST AS MUCH AS I'LL MISS YOUR MUSIC, MY DEAR RON.
DOUBLING YOUR LIVING SPACE WILL COMFORT YOU WHEN I LEAVE. YOU WILL BE FREE TO ENJOY IT AT YOUR LEISURE.
DISTURBING...
DERRICK CORN'S CASE

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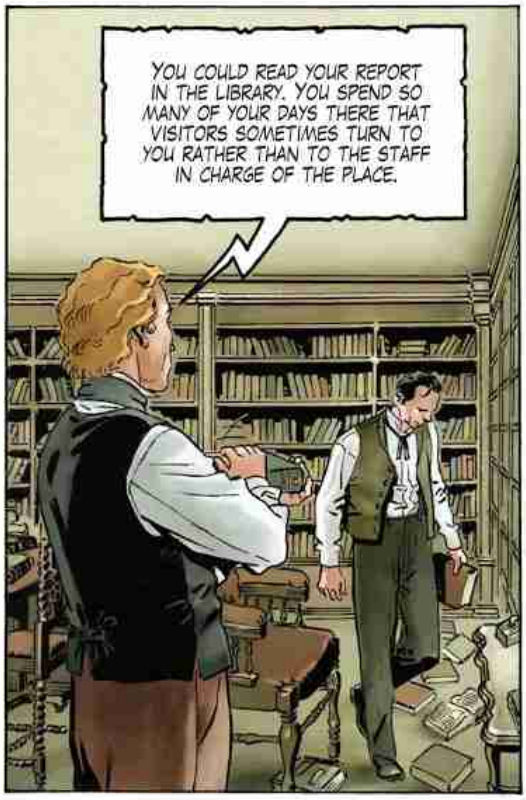
AAHHH!!! I'M WASTING MY TIME!
AND NOTHING ANNOYS ME MORE, EXCEPT PERHAPS ORDINARY STUPIDITY!


YOU COULD READ YOUR REPORT IN THE LIBRARY. YOU SPEND SO MANY OF YOUR DAYS THERE THAT VISITORS SOMETIMES TURN TO YOU RATHER THAN TO THE STAFF IN CHARGE OF THE PLACE.

IT'S POSSIBLE... BUT IN WHICH BOOK?

LET'S MAKE IT SIMPLE! I HAVE A BOOKSELLER FRIEND WHO'LL MAKE UP FOR MY FAILING MEMORY.
I PROMISE TO KEEP THIS MOMENT OF WEAKNESS TO MYSELF.
YOU HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE.

I'D LIKE TO PACK MY BAGS.
DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE. I WON'T TAKE OFFENSE.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.
ALSO TAKE A VOW OF SILENCE FOR THIS OTHER FLAW AND WE'LL BE EVEN.

TOO KIND, INDEED...

YOU KNOW, SINCE MY ELECTORAL DEFEAT, I'VE ENJOYED MY RETIREMENT.
I'M FINALLY SPENDING SOME TIME WITH CATHERINE. I WRITE...
COME NOW, WILLIAM... RETIREMENT...
I DON'T KNOW A MORE FEROCIOUS POLITICAL ANIMAL THAN YOU. YOU'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO RETIREMENT.
I AM NO LONGER THE HEAD OF THE PARTY.
BUT YOU'RE STILL THE SOUL. BESIDES, THE QUEEN STILL HOLDS YOU IN HIGH ESTEEM. NO ONE WILL KNOW HOW TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS BETTER THAN YOU. AND TRUST ME, YOU CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF YOUR OLD FRIENDS.
WELL, I'M DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR SUPPORT, BUT...
JUST TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. THE IDEA WILL FIND ITS WAY, YOU'LL SEE.
IT WAS A PLEASURE, HENRY.
SEE YOU SOON, WILLIAM.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
TYRON, SIR!

I'LL KILL YOU, YOU SON OF A WHORE!
CALM DOWN, TYRONE... YOU'LL END UP HURTING SOMEONE.
SERIOUSLY... ALL BECAUSE OF EMMETT? THAT BASTARD GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.
I HOPE THAT HIS EXAMPLE...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH!
TYRON!
PUT THAT BLADE DOWN!
MR. MORIARTY...
PUT THAT BLADE DOWN!

HE KILLED MY BROTHER! LIKE A DOG!
I'M AWARE OF THAT. IT WAS MY DECISION.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I KNOW YOU! YOU WOULD NEVER DO THAT WITHOUT TALKING TO ME FIRST! YOU'D EVEN LET ME TAKE CARE OF EMMETT!
I'M TELLING YOU AGAIN. JAMES FOLLOWED MY ORDERS, JUST LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO DO NOW.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN. GO GET DRUNK. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, WHEN THE ANGER IS GONE.
EVERY-BODY OUT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU DEAL WITH THAT WHINER? YOU SHOW WEAKNESS WHEN YOU TALK TO HIM.

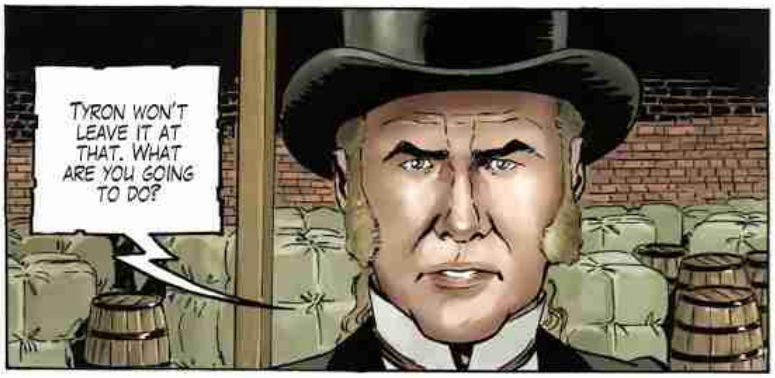
TYRON'S BEEN WORKING FOR ME FOR TEN YEARS. HE FOLLOWED MY ORDERS WHILE YOU WERE DEDICATING YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDIES AND PLAYED WITH ESOTERICISM.

TEN YEARS OF BLIND LOYALTY... THESE ARE THINGS YOU HAVE TO VALUE, JAMES. OR BE SURE THE GUYS WILL LOSE ALL RESPECT FOR YOU.

FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, YOU DESERVE PUNISHMENT YOU SO INSISTENTLY DEMAND FOR OTHERS.
WHY COVER FOR ME IF YOU DISAPPROVE OF MY INITIATIVE?
WHAT DID YOU LEARN BY MY SIDE? YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITHOUT ME HAVING TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.

I CAN'T LET MEN THINK YOU'RE ACTING ON YOUR OWN. YOUR... INITIATIVE IS UNDERMINING MY AUTHORITY. JUST LIKE TYRON'S REACTION.

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN.


TYRON WON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR HAPPINESS, MR. HOLMES?
AS ALWAYS, EARNEST. AS ALWAYS...
THE DAY YOU CLOSE UP SHOP, I'LL BE THE UNHAPPIEST MAN. ONLY HERE CAN YOU FIND SUCH RARITIES.
DON'T BURY ME TOO SOON. I INTEND TO RUN THIS SHOP UNTIL THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
GOD WILLING... SO YOU WILL PROVIDE ME WITH SOMETHING TO OCCUPY MY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.
THE NEXT ONE WILL BE ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO THIS BOOK.
I'M AT YOUR SERVICE.

TOK
TOK
TOK
MR. LANCASTER...
DON'T WORRY, DEAR NEIGHBOR. YOU WON'T HAVE TO BEAR MY MUSIC MUCH LONGER...
?!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF MFFFFFFH....

HURRY UP! THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE!
WHY THE HELL SHOULD WE CARE?
WHAT WILL THE PEDESTRIANS DO IF THEY SEE US? YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL COME TO BEAT US UP?
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT HE WEIGHS A TON.
ADD MY WEIGHT, BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE ME ON YOUR BACK, TOO.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS ME...
YOU CARRY BARRELS ALL DAY LONG. HOW MUCH IS THE VIOLINIST? 60/70 KG?
GET LOST IF YOU'RE SMART! OR I'LL BREAK YOU IN HALF!
I HOPE FOR YOUR SAKE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
PUT A SOCK IN IT, WILL YOU?! I'LL...
YOU WILL DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, MALONEY. WE HAVE A CLIENT TO SATISFY.

GO WITH THE PACKAGE. I'LL DEAL WITH THE DANDY MYSELF.
NO!
OH, YES! THEY GET OUT AND YOU STAY WITH ME!
YAAH! YAAH! YAAH!
TAVERN
THE WAY YOU WERE STARING AT ME IN THE PUB, I WAS PRETTY SURE YOU HAD ME FIGURED OUT.
AND IF YOU'RE HALF AS OBSERVANT AS YOU LOOK, IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE YOU ALIVE...
...IN CASE YOU GO TALK TO THE PIGS.

THAT'S RIGHT! DANCE!
I'LL GET YOU SOONER OR LATER!
HERRK!
THUD
TUMP
WINE & SPIRIT

SHERLOCK... THE EVIDENCE IS CONSISTENT. PASSERS-BY CONFIRM THAT YOUR ATTACKER HAD A KNIFE WHILE YOU WERE DEFENDING YOURSELF WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.
WE'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW AT SCOTLAND YARD. UNTIL THEN, SLEEP FOR A FEW HOURS...
SLEEP? HE WAS WILLING TO KILL ME TO COVER RON'S ABDUCTION.
I FEAR FOR HIS LIFE, COLIN.
I KNOW... DO YOU SEE ANY EXPLANATION FOR HIS KIDNAPPING?
NOT A SINGLE ONE...
FOR ONCE, LISTEN TO ME. I'LL NEED YOUR SMARTS AND YOU WON'T BE OF ANY HELP IF YOU DON'T GET SOME REST.

I DIDN'T KNOW HIM AT THAT AGE... I BET HE WAS A CHARMING CHILD.
YOU GOT SOME NERVE SHOWING UP HERE, ISABELL.
AND EVEN MORE TO TALK ABOUT EMMETT AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO HIM.

MR. MORIARTY OR NOT, I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.
TYRON...
JAMES IS SORRY FOR THIS SITUATION. YOUR BROTHER'S WRONGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. BESIDES, LIKE YOU, HE HAS TO OBEY HIS FATHER.
I'M HERE TO OFFER YOU PEACE.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, BITCH?
YOU SEND EMMETT TO FEED THE FISH AND YOU COME AND GIVE ME THIS CRAP! YOU'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR FUCKING MIND IF YOU THINK...
IT'S YOU WHO'S "FUCKED".
HENRY SAYS GOODBYE.
AAAAHH!
CRASH

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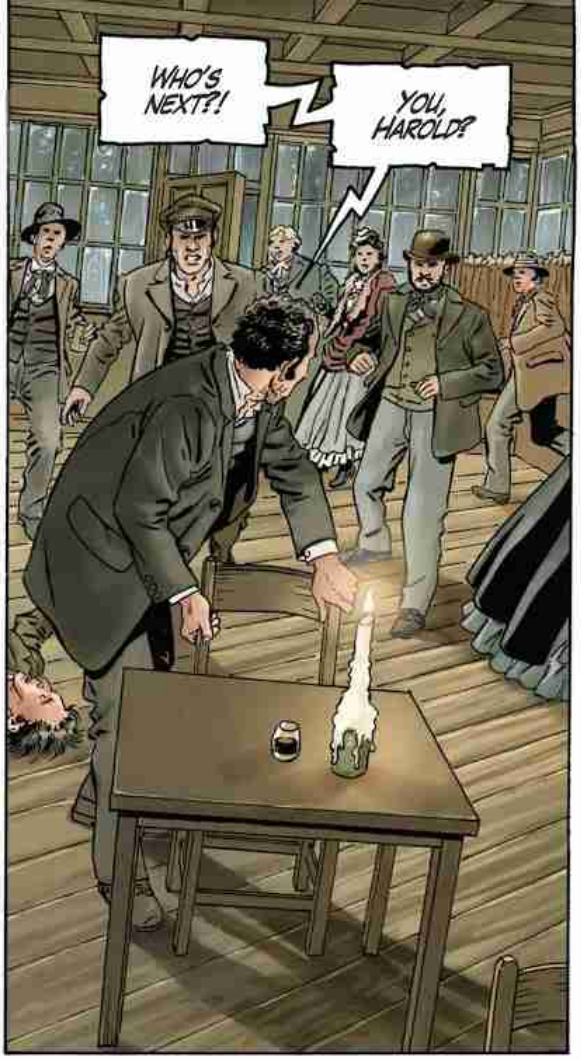

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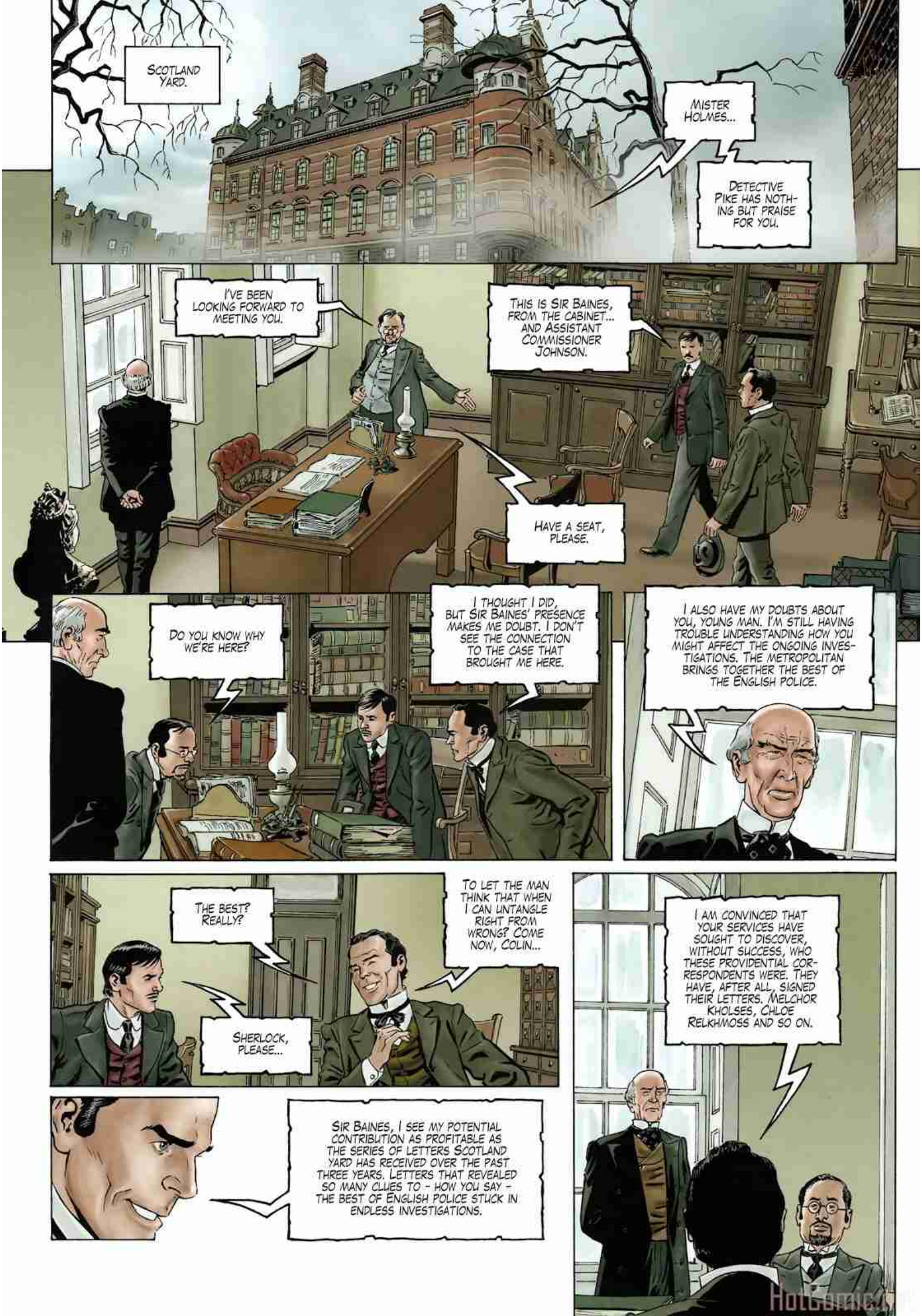
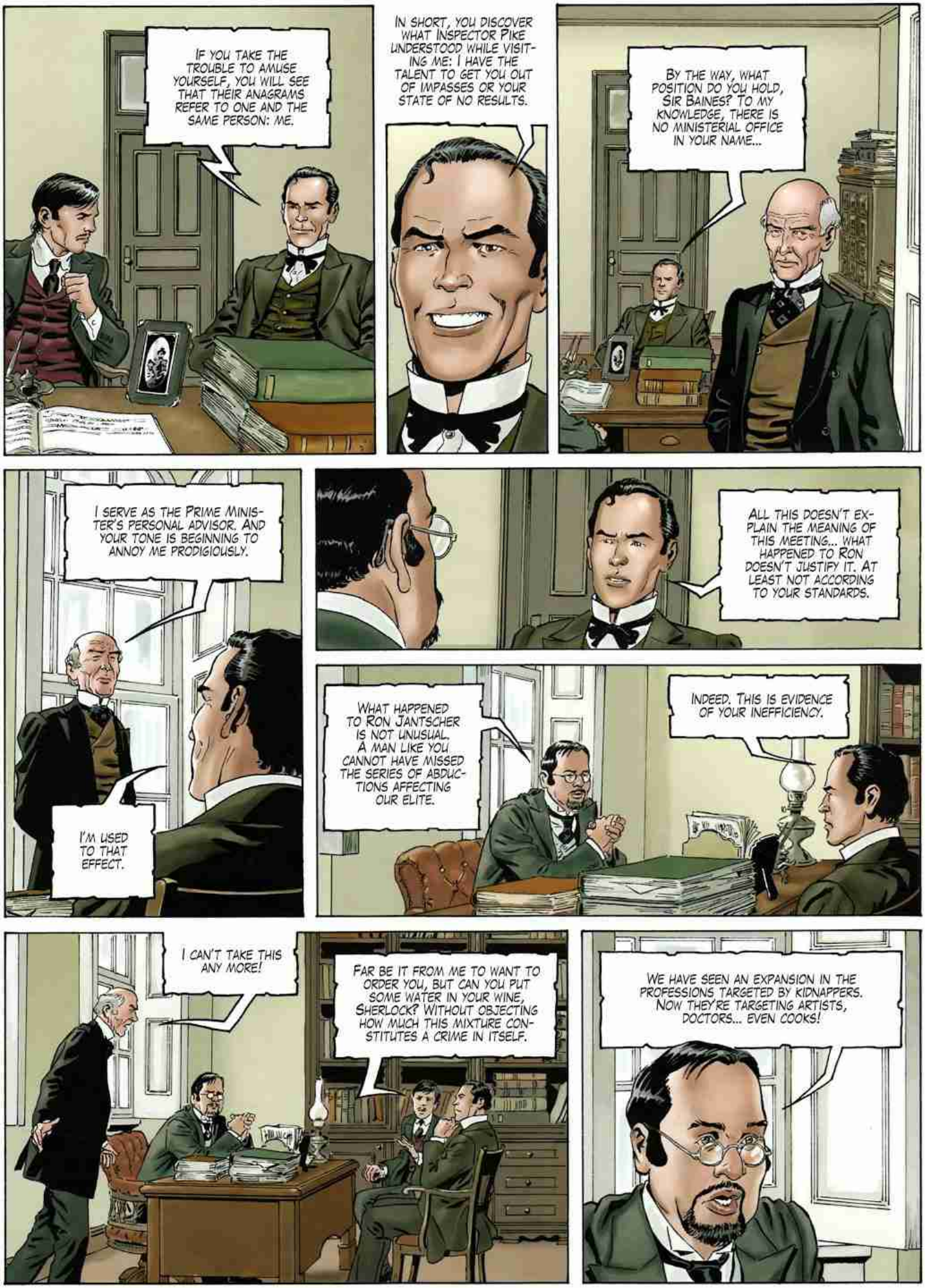
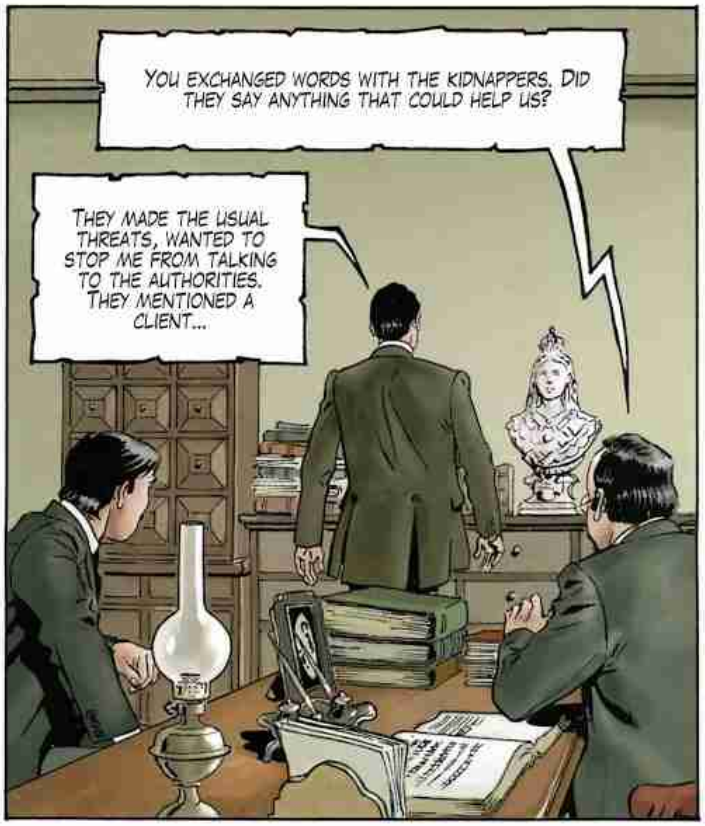
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
CRASH
ISABELL...
BE QUIET.
I'M SO UPSET I COULD SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER AND SHOOT THE FIRST MALE I SEE, JUST TO RELIEVE MY NERVES.
CRACK
COMPENSATE THE TAVERNER FOR THE MESS.
WE PICK UP THE WOUNDED AND THEN WE GO HUNTING. HENRY WANTS TYRON'S HEAD. HE'LL GET IT.


SCOTLAND YARD.
MISTER HOLMES...
DETECTIVE PIKE HAS NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR YOU.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
THIS IS SIR BAINES, FROM THE CABINET... AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER JOHNSON.
HAVE A SEAT, PLEASE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE?
I THOUGHT I DID, BUT SIR BAINES' PRESENCE MAKES ME DOUBT. I DON'T SEE THE CONNECTION TO THE CASE THAT BROUGHT ME HERE.
I ALSO HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOU, YOUNG MAN. I'M STILL HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING HOW YOU MIGHT AFFECT THE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS. THE METROPOLITAN BRINGS TOGETHER THE BEST OF THE ENGLISH POLICE.
THE BEST? REALLY?
TO LET THE MAN THINK THAT WHEN I CAN UNTANGLE RIGHT FROM WRONG? COME NOW, COLIN...
SHERLOCK, PLEASE...
SIR BAINES, I SEE MY POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION AS PROFITABLE AS THE SERIES OF LETTERS SCOTLAND YARD HAS RECEIVED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. LETTERS THAT REVEALED SO MANY CLUES TO - HOW YOU SAY - THE BEST OF ENGLISH POLICE STUCK IN ENDLESS INVESTIGATIONS.
I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR SERVICES HAVE SOUGHT TO DISCOVER, WITHOUT SUCCESS, WHO THESE PROVIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENTS WERE. THEY HAVE, AFTER ALL, SIGNED THEIR LETTERS. MELCHOR KHOLSES, CHLOE RELKHMOSS AND SO ON.

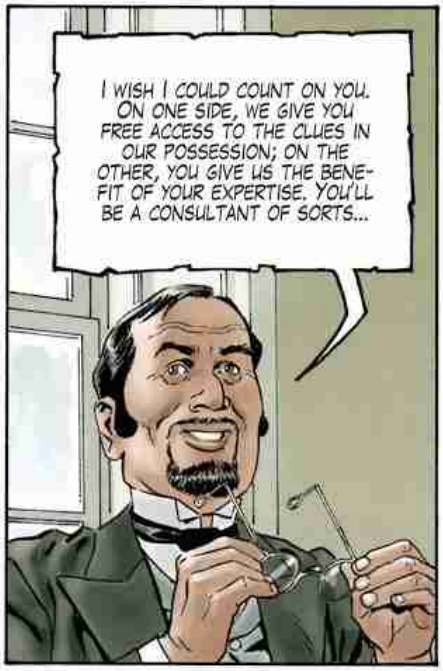

If you take the trouble to amuse yourself, you will see that their anagrams refer to one and the same person: me.
In short, you discover what Inspector Pike understood while visiting me: I have the talent to get you out of impasses or your state of no results.
By the way, what position do you hold, Sir Baines? To my knowledge, there is no ministerial office in your name...
I serve as the Prime Minister's personal advisor. And your tone is beginning to annoy me prodigiously.
I'm used to that effect.
All this doesn't explain the meaning of this meeting... What happened to Ron doesn't justify it. At least not according to your standards.
What happened to Ron Jantscher is not unusual. A man like you cannot have missed the series of abductions affecting our elite.
Indeed. This is evidence of your inefficiency.
I can't take this any more!
Far be it from me to want to order you, but can you put some water in your wine, Sherlock? Without objecting how much this mixture constitutes a crime in itself.
We have seen an expansion in the professions targeted by kidnappers. Now they're targeting artists, doctors... even cooks!

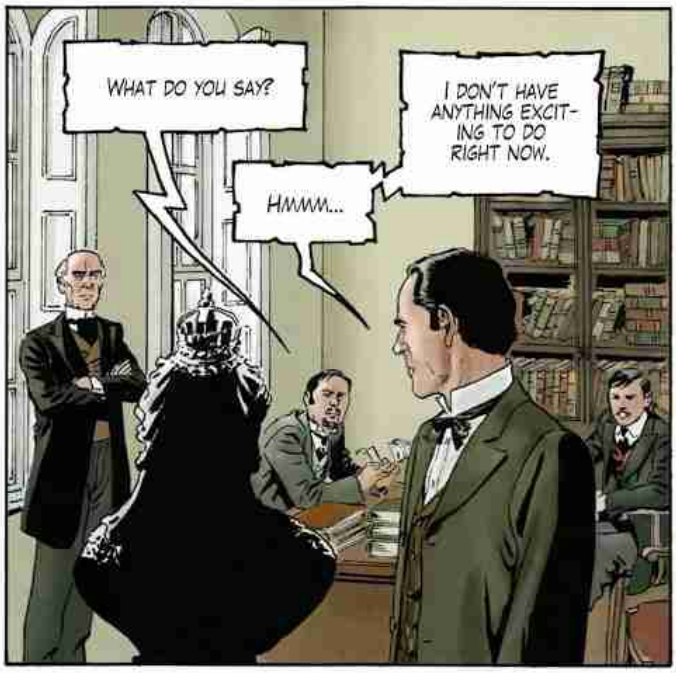
CRIMES THAT DON'T FOLLOW ANY LOGIC!
THERE IS ALWAYS ONE...

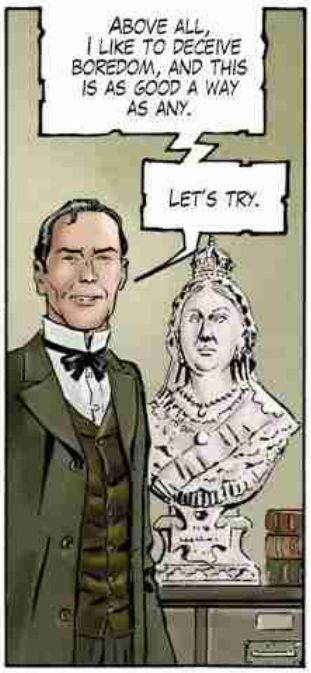

YOU EXCHANGED WORDS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS. DID THEY SAY ANYTHING THAT COULD HELP US?
THEY MADE THE USUAL THREATS, WANTED TO STOP ME FROM TALKING TO THE AUTHORITIES. THEY MENTIONED A CLIENT...

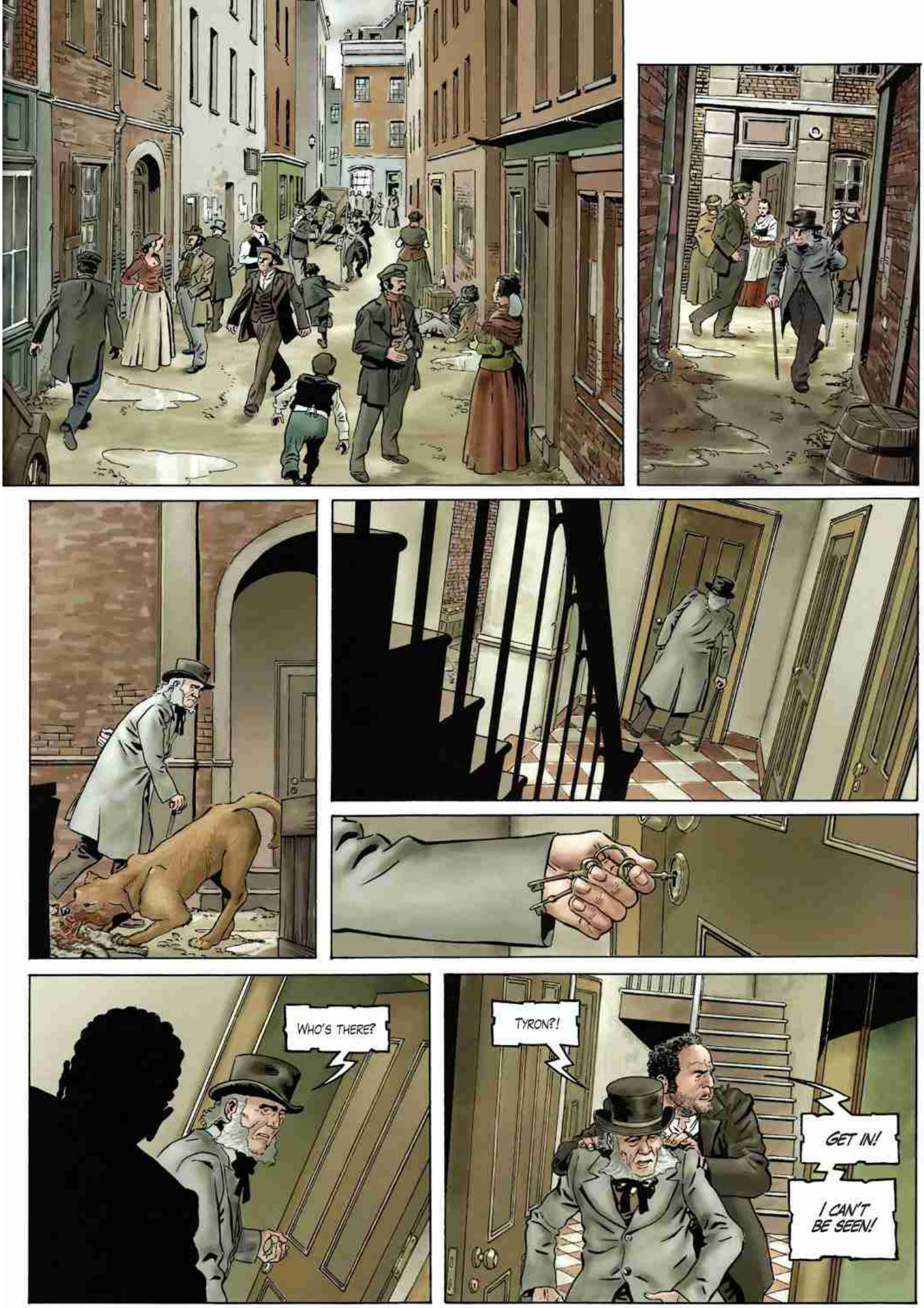
WHAT I'M SURE OF IS THAT THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. ONE OF THEM IS CALLED MALONEY.

THE INSPECTOR GIVES YOU GREAT CREDIT, MR. HOLMES. AND IT HAS TO BE SAID THAT WE REACHED A DEAD END.

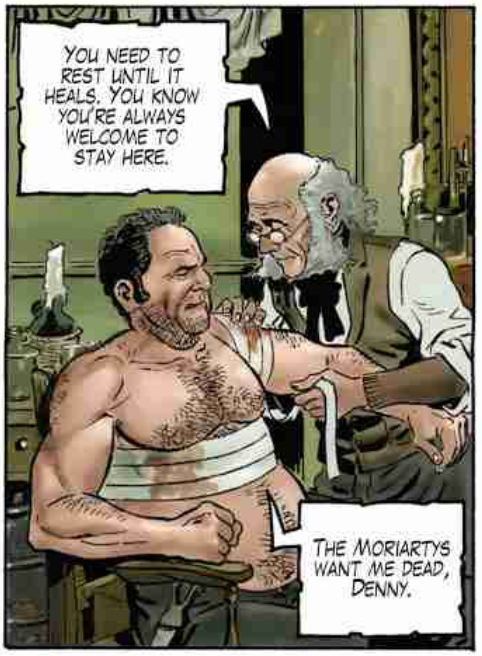

I WISH I COULD COUNT ON YOU. ON ONE SIDE, WE GIVE YOU FREE ACCESS TO THE CLUES IN OUR POSSESSION; ON THE OTHER, YOU GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR EXPERTISE. YOU'LL BE A CONSULTANT OF SORTS...


WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING EXCITING TO DO RIGHT NOW.
HMMM...


ABOVE ALL, I LIKE TO DECEIVE BOREDOM, AND THIS IS AS GOOD A WAY AS ANY.
LET'S TRY.

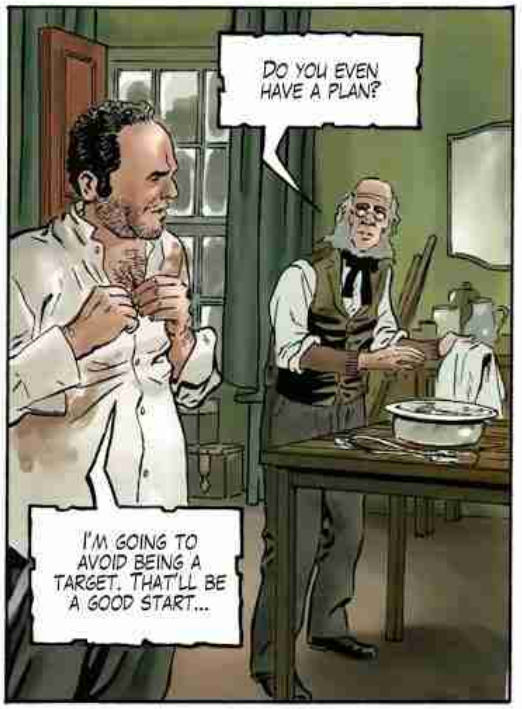

WHO'S THERE?
TYRON?!
GET IN!
I CAN'T BE SEEN!

YOU GOT LUCKY.
THE BULLET BARELY TOUCHED YOU. AND THE STAB COULD HAVE DONE SOME DAMAGE... FORTUNATELY, THE WOUND IS SUPERFICIAL.


YOU NEED TO REST UNTIL IT HEALS. YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO STAY HERE.
THE MORIARTYS WANT ME DEAD, DENNY.

IF THEY FIND ME IN YOUR HOUSE, THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO. JUST FOR HELPING ME.

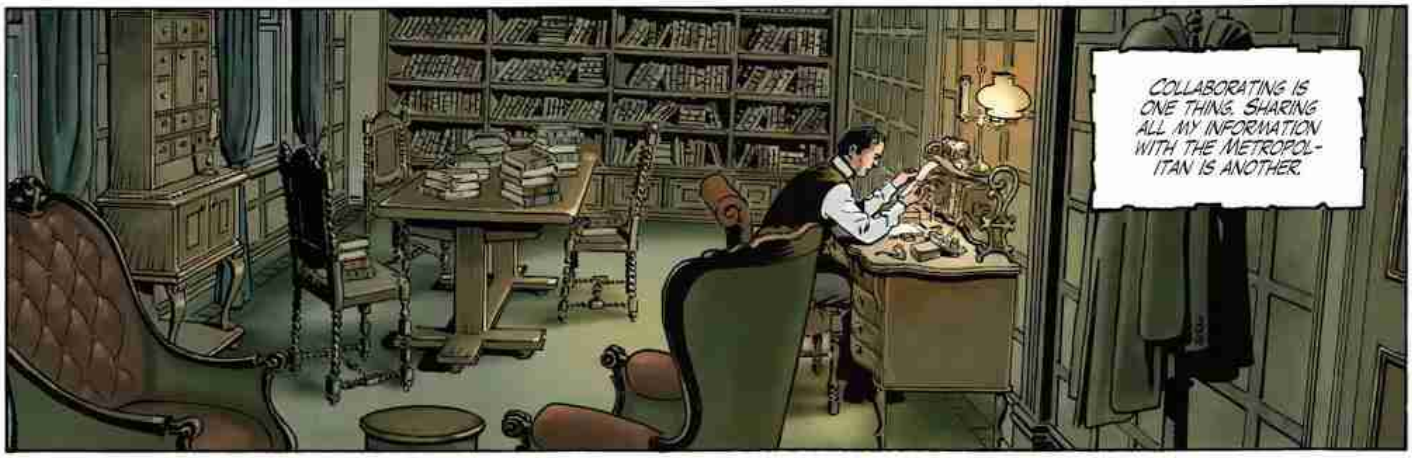
I CAN'T STAY...
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OUTSIDE? HIDE IN A CORNER?
I'LL KEEP MOVING.
AND MAKE YOUR CONDITION WORSE AT THE SAME TIME.

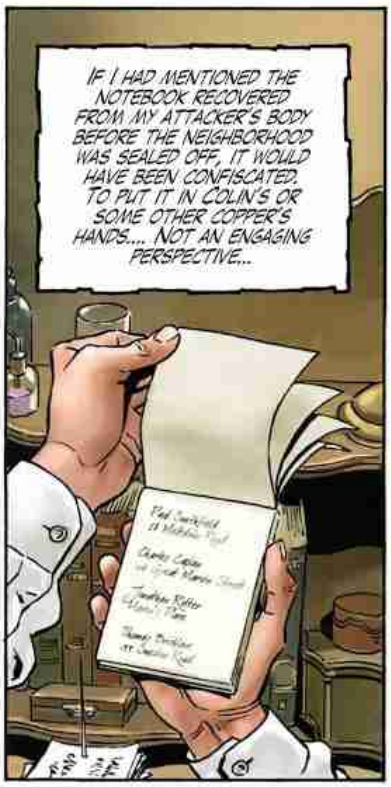

DO YOU EVEN HAVE A PLAN?
I'M GOING TO AVOID BEING A TARGET. THAT'LL BE A GOOD START...

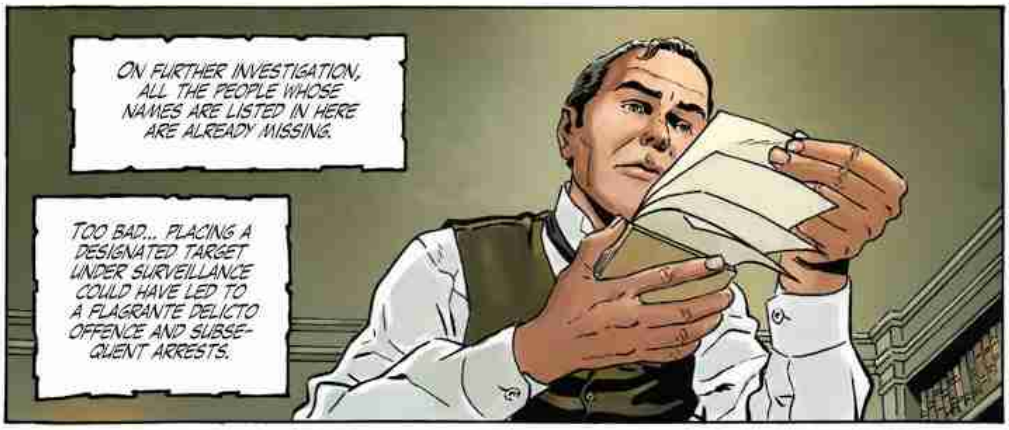
IF YOU HAVE THE MORIARTY FAMILY ON YOUR BACK, THE ONLY SENSIBLE THING TO DO IS TO LEAVE LONDON.

YOU THINK THAT'LL SAVE ME? IF HENRY AND JAMES WANT ME, THEY'LL GET ME.
NO... THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUT OF IT IS TO STRIKE FIRST.
THOSE WHO TRIED ARE NO LONGER HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT. I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'D FARE ANY BETTER.

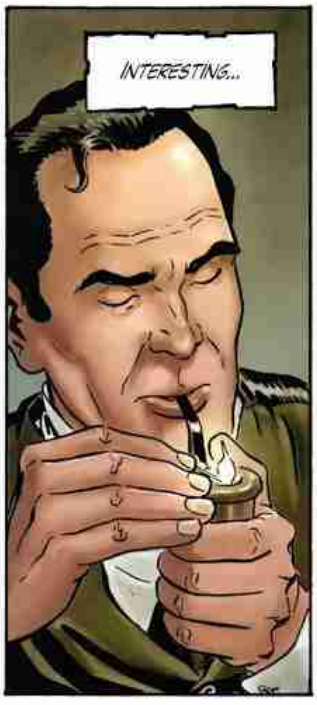
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
LOOK... I MAY HAVE AN IDEA.
OH?
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
MAKE THEM FALL.
I'M NOT A SNITCH. I DON'T TALK TO COPS.
WHO ASKED YOU TO DO THAT?
NO... I GOT THE MAN FOR YOU.
HE'S A SMART GUY. HE PAYS HONESTLY, ASKS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS, PROTECTS HIS SOURCES...
HE CONDUCTS INVESTIGATIONS ON HIS OWN BEHALF. TO KEEP HIMSELF BUSY, I HEAR. AND WHEN HE LOOKS AT A CASE, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... HEADS ALWAYS FALL IN THE END.
SURE, HE'S NOT A COP. TOO ECCENTRIC, ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY SAY.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
SHERLOCK HOLMES.




IF I HAD MENTIONED THE NOTEBOOK RECOVERED FROM MY ATTACKER'S BODY BEFORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS SEALED OFF, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. TO PUT IT IN COLIN'S OR SOME OTHER COPPER'S HANDS... NOT AN ENGAGING PERSPECTIVE...


ON FURTHER INVESTIGATION, ALL THE PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE LISTED IN HERE ARE ALREADY MISSING.
TOO BAD... PLACING A DESIGNATED TARGET UNDER SURVEILLANCE COULD HAVE LED TO A FLAGRANTE DELICTO OFFENCE AND SUBSEQUENT ARRESTS.

THE NOTEBOOK CONFIRMS JOHNSON'S STATEMENT: THE LATEST VICTIMS BELONG TO INCREASINGLY DIVERSE TRADES. BUT ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON THAT HE DID NOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH: THEY ARE THE BEST IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.



EQUALLY INTRIGUING: THE MOTIVE OF THE KIDNAPPERS REMAINS UNKNOWN. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE RANSOM REQUEST SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE ABDUCTION.

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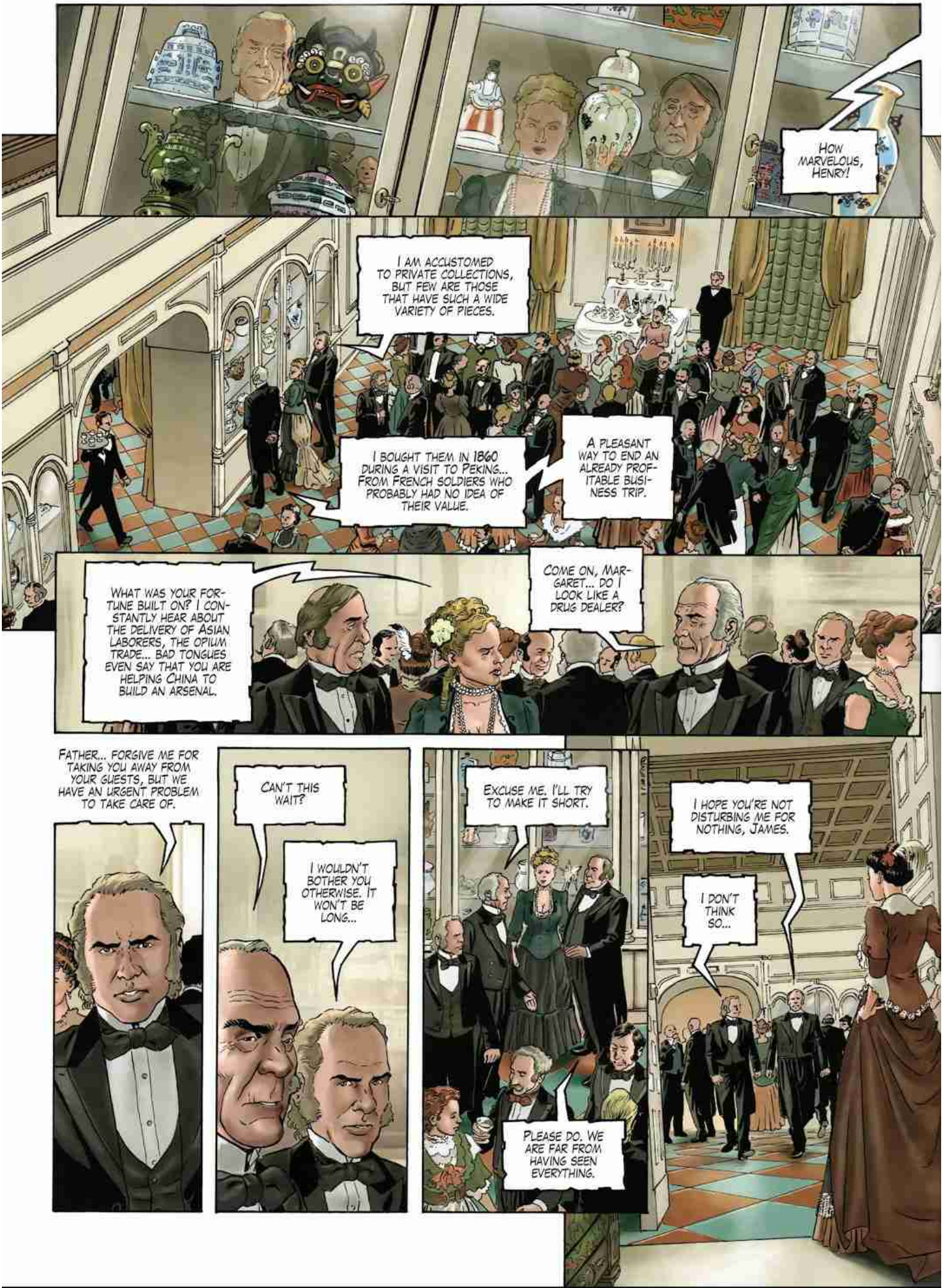
THE FACILITIES OFFERED BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ARE MORE VALUABLE TO ME THAN READING THE REPORTS FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCES. THE INCOMPETENCE OF THEIR AUTHORS IS EDIFYING.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH THE HELP OF A TALENTED ARTIST, FREE ACCESS TO THE MORGUE ALLOWS ME TO OBTAIN A PORTRAIT OF A CONFUSING REALISM.
THEN BEGINS A TEDIOUS BUT UNAVOIDABLE WORK. WHAT THE POLICE DON'T KNOW, OFTEN THE STREET DOES.
MY NETWORK OF INFORMERS TOUCHES ALL STRATA OF LONDON SOCIETY. FROM THE INFIDELITIES OF A LORD TO THE VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE TERROR OF A MISERABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, NOTHING ESCAPES THEM.
FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, I APPEAL ESPECIALLY TO THE PAIRS OF EYES POINTED AT THE EAST END. AS REQUESTED BY THE PROFILE OF MY ATTACKER.
THE SMARTER ONES ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN OBSERVING THE CONTINUOUS PARADE OF PURSES ON LEGS AND IDENTIFYING THE SINISTER LOOKS.
MAKING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PREY AND HUNTER IS A NECESSITY FOR SOME...
...A GAME FOR OTHERS.
I'D LIKE MY EFFORTS TO PAY OFF RIGHT AWAY, BUT SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT.
I PULLED ENOUGH STRINGS FOR A BELL TO RING.


How marvelous, Henry!
I am accustomed to private collections, but few are those that have such a wide variety of pieces.
I bought them in 1860 during a visit to Peking... From French soldiers who probably had no idea of their value.
A pleasant way to end an already profitable business trip.
What was your fortune built on? I constantly hear about the delivery of Asian laborers, the opium trade... Bad tongues even say that you are helping China to build an arsenal.
Come on, Margaret... Do I look like a drug dealer?
Father... Forgive me for taking you away from your guests, but we have an urgent problem to take care of.
Can't this wait?
I wouldn't bother you otherwise. It won't be long...
Excuse me. I'll try to make it short.
I hope you're not disturbing me for nothing, James.
I don't think so...
Please do. We are far from having seen everything.

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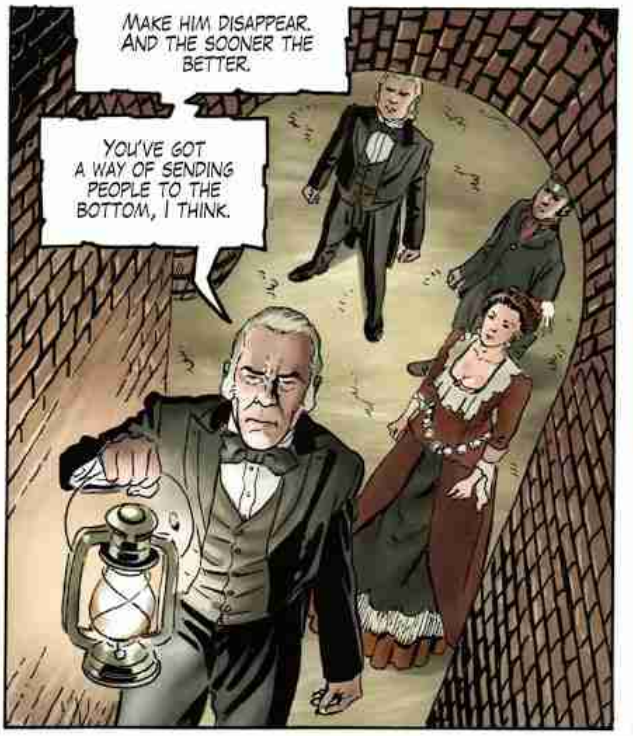
Is this man able to harm us?
From vermin to small-time bosses, everyone knows that coming after the Moriartys is like putting a foot in the grave.
I don't think so. He's dead.
People who are likely to recognize Forrest also know who he worked for.
So you're saying the man killed Forrest during Jantscher's abduction?
Probably... Forrest was going to stab him when we left.
My contacts at Scotland Yard confirm that it was Holmes... That's his name... who took care of him.
What else do you know about him?
Not much, other than what Forrest had reported when he asked about the violinist. Holmes is his roommate...
Apparently, he's an eccentric and a jack-of-all-trades. He devotes himself to chemistry, is interested in old books, also practices the violin...
But most of all, he's starting to make a name for himself on the street. It's not the first time he's put his nose where it doesn't belong.
Yes... I remember!
I knew I'd heard of him before! He put an end to Burbon, the Shadwell butcher. That was in February.
Scotland Yard gets all the credit, but he's the one who stopped him. Out of the window, if I'm not mistaken...
Then we need to take him seriously.

Especially since he has connections in the police. He's close to a detective... a guy named Pike.
Motivated, enterprising and with connections...

James... Reminds those who have short memory what it costs to have me as an enemy.
And Holmes?
Kill him.
He will serve as an example. More importantly, we cannot let him continue his investigations.
Won't that look suspicious to Pike?

If we have to, we'll eliminate him too. My priority is that nothing should disturb the serenity of our associates. If Holmes draws attention to us, even a little, they might suspend our arrangement.


Make him disappear. And the sooner the better.
You've got a way of sending people to the bottom, I think.

How I like to make you proud, father.

As I said, you have to be patient. Even when you fear for a friend's life. Abandoning myself to my emotions wouldn't do him any favors.
My concentration is disturbed - I am not insensitive - but I know what to do in this case: rely on cold logic, implacable statistical laws and the principle of action/reaction.
In other words and to repeat myself: you pull a rope, a bell rings. Inevitably.
Hey! Mister!
Let go of my sleeve, will you? I'm listening.
The guy on your drawing... Dane, member of our gang, he remembered... he thinks he knows who it is.
And where is this rare pearl?
What pearl?
Dane.
He's not leaving our area. Some people want to kill him.
You have the promised reward?
Of course. Will you take me to him?

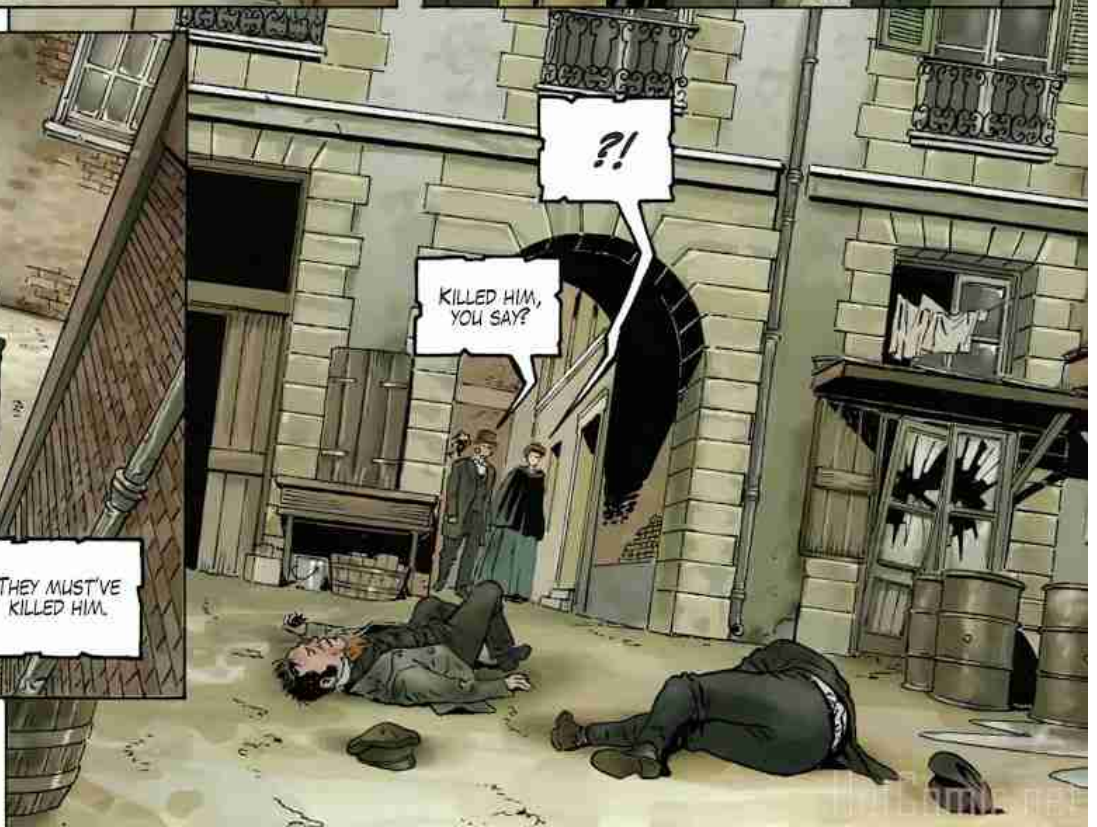
MALONEY CAN'T WAIT TO BEAT HIM UP. WITH GRANT, THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM EVERYTHING THEY HAVE. I FEEL BAD FOR HIM.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET SO CLOSE TO HIM BEFORE THE FINAL BLOW?
CURIOSITY...

WHEN HOLMES DISCOVERED BURBON'S HIDING PLACE, HE WENT THERE ALONE. HE COULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE. BUT NO, HE TOOK THE ABSURD RISK OF FACING A MOST VICIOUS MURDERER.

I'D LIKE TO MEET THE MAN... UNDERSTAND WHAT DRIVES HIM.
YOU TWO! DON'T LET ANYONE ENTER THE ALLEY.

IT'S VERY QUIET...
THEY MUST'VE KILLED HIM.


?!
KILLED HIM, YOU SAY?

If I were you, I wouldn't do that.
Step forward, please.
A compliment I can't return. Your surveillance was hardly discreet for a trained eye.
You're full of surprises.
And you still throw yourself into the wolf's mouth? You like to tempt the devil...
I have one question to ask him.
What did you do with Ron Jantscher?
Nothing yet. But before we talk about him, enlighten me...
I'd have bet big we'd blend in the crowd. Where did we make a mistake? Me in particular.
You have all departed from one elementary rule: never meet the eyes of the person being watched. As for you, everything pointed to you as the leader of this gang. The way you hold yourself, a certain intelligence in your eyes... The vice too, which this conversation confirms... and you have no weapon under your jacket.
The characteristic of a leader who doesn't get his hands dirty.
Conclusions made on the basis of a simple glance. I was observing you too and you didn't give us any more.
I don't think she's important.
And this young woman?
A male-dominated logician. I definitely like you, Holmes.
I'm glad to hear that.
A little patience...
So, Ron Jantscher...

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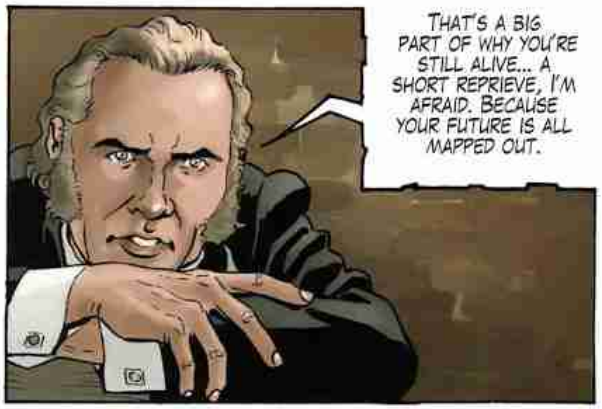
YOUR GUESS IS RIGHT. I COMMAND THESE PEOPLE. AND BECAUSE I COMMAND THEM, THEY WILL TAKE THEIR WEAPONS AND POINT THEM AT YOU.
I'LL SHOOT YOU BEFORE THEY SHOOT ME.
KLIK
THAT'S WHY THEY WON'T SHOOT. I JUST WANT THE PRESSURE TO CHANGE SIDES, THAT'S ALL.
NOW, BACK TO YOUR FRIEND.
HE'S ALIVE. HELD CAPTIVE IN A PLACE OUTSIDE LONDON.
IF YOU PUT THE GUN DOWN, I PROMISE I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM. NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT MY MEN WILL NOT FIRE ON YOU, BUT YOU WILL SEE JANTSCHER.
YOUR WORD?
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE TRUTH WHEN YOU HEAR IT.
WHAT IF I REFUSE TO PLAY BY YOUR RULES?
THEN WE BOTH DIE BECAUSE I WILL NOT MAKE ANY FURTHER OFFERS. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

THIS IS A REASONABLE DECISION...
CURTAINS DOWN, SMART GUY!
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH...
ISABELL!
I HAVE MADE MYSELF PERFECTLY CLEAR, HAVEN'T I?
HE MUST'VE REALLY HURT YOUR PRIDE, MY SHE-WOLF...
A WELL-PLACED BULLET AND THE CASE IS CLOSED.
WOULD YOU END SUCH A BRILLIANT MIND? THAT WOULD BE A WASTE.
I KNOW SOME WHO WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS PROFILE.
BESIDES, I MADE HIM A PROMISE. I'LL KEEP IT.
THE MONEY HE'S GOT ON HIM IS YOURS, BOY.
HELP YOURSELF BEFORE WE TAKE HIM AWAY.

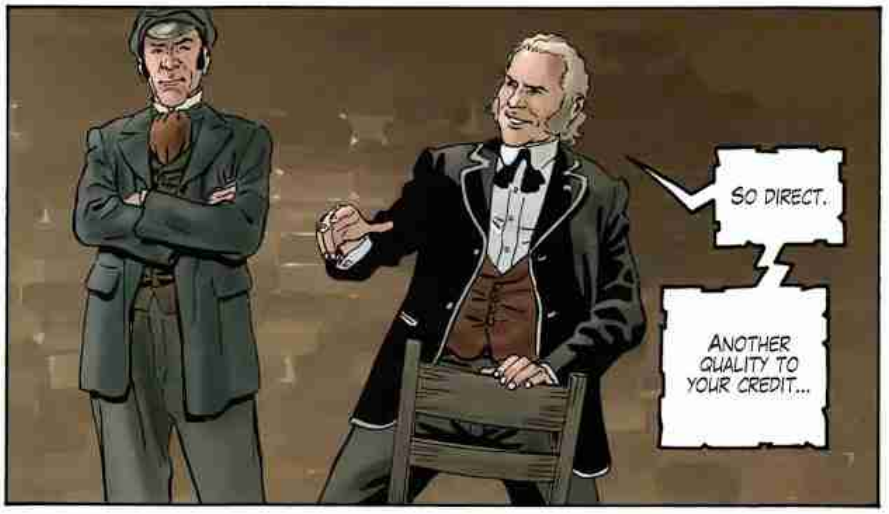
YOU AWAKE?
WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU TO GET STARTED.

GET STARTED?
YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND... YOU HAVE AMAZED ME. IT RARELY HAPPENS TO ME.

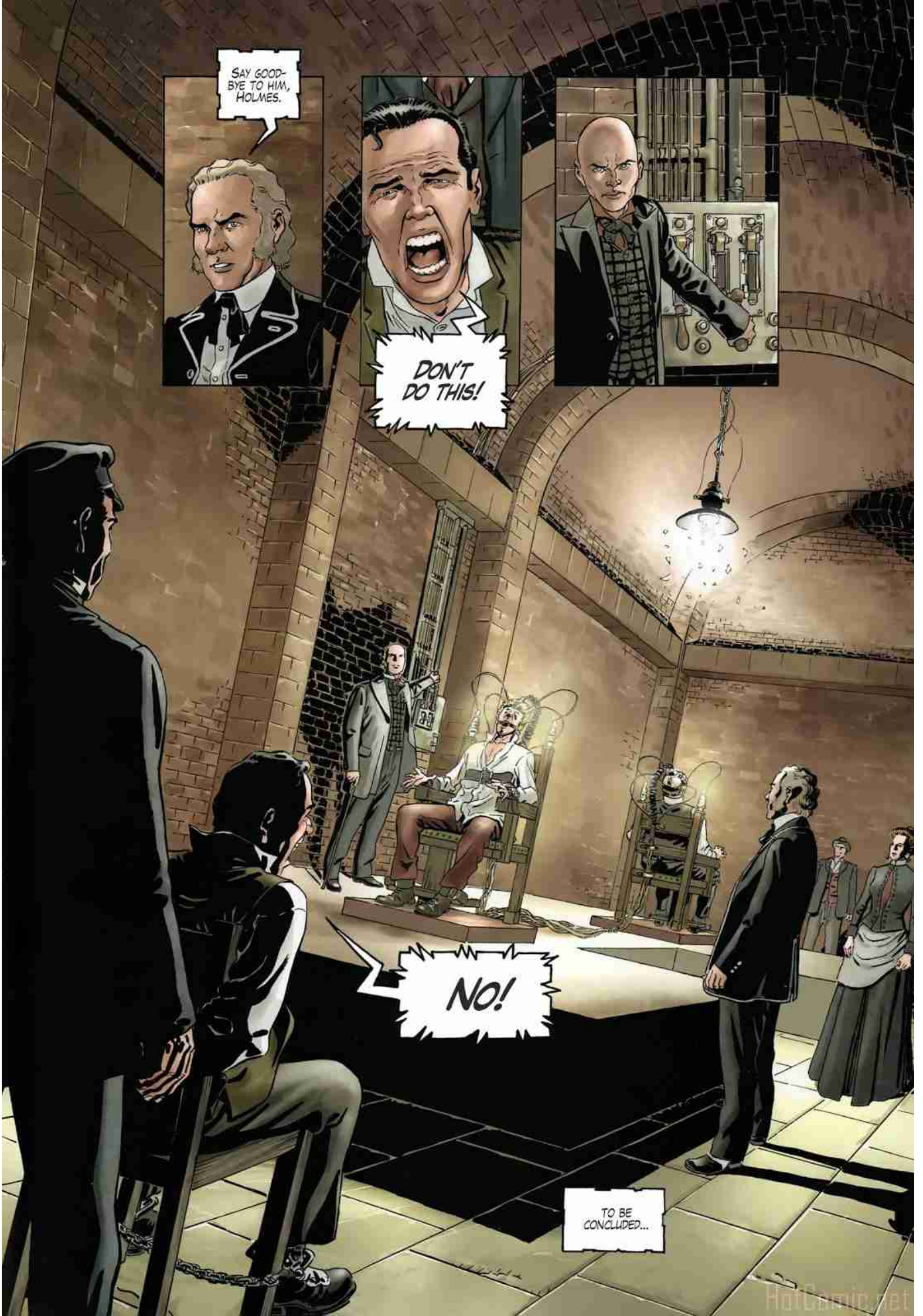

THAT'S A BIG PART OF WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE... A SHORT REPRIEVE, I'M AFRAID. BECAUSE YOUR FUTURE IS ALL MAPPED OUT.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SCIENCE, HOLMES? I HAVE A REAL OBSESSION FOR IT.
MY HEAD IS KILLING ME AND YOUR VERBIAGE ISN'T HELPING THE CASE.

UNLESS YOU'RE TRYING TO FINISH ME OFF WITH WORDS, I'M DONE LISTENING TO YOU TALK. IT'LL DO ME THE WORLD OF GOOD.


SO DIRECT.
ANOTHER QUALITY TO YOUR CREDIT...

WE MADE A DEAL. I'LL STICK TO IT.
I TOLD YOU YOU'D SEE RON JANTSCHER...
HERE HE IS.
RON!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!
A QUESTION I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
ASK YOURSELF WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TO HIM NOW.
LET'S RETURN TO SCIENCE...
DO YOU SEE THIS DEVICE? BY A PROCESS THAT WOULD BE A LITTLE LONG TO EXPLAIN, IT ALLOWS THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING TALENTS.
YOUR FRIEND'S GIFT ON THE VIOLIN WILL SOON BE THE PROPERTY OF A MAN SITTING BEHIND HIM WHO PAID A KING'S RANSOM TO MAKE IT HIS.
AND ONE IMPORTANT DETAIL, THE SUPPLIER OF THAT TALENT DOES NOT SURVIVE THE OPERATION.
MMMHH!


SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIM, HOLMES.
DON'T DO THIS!
NO!
TO BE CONCLUDED...